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BUSH SAYS C.I.A. DROPS NEWSMEN

Refuses to Supply Names to
Press Council Aides

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

The Central Intelligence Agency is ending its association with all part-time correspondents affiliated with American news agencies abroad and will no longer hire them as agents, George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, has told representatives of the National News Council.

Mr. Bush and three of his assistants met Thursday with William A. Rusher, a member of the council and publisher of the National Review, and Ned Schnurman, the council's associate director, at the C.I.A. headquarters in McLean, Va. The meetings were held at the request of the council, a voluntary group that monitors the performance of the national press, to clarify the C.I.A.'s position on the employment of journalists.

C.I.A. Refuses Comment

The C.I.A.'s use of the part-time correspondents produced a controversy. Mr. Bush issued a statement in February saying that the agency would end any existing relationships and would discontinue the practice of hiring full-time or part-time journalists. But two months later, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities said in a report that the C.I.A. intended to continue its employment of 25 part-time journalists. These part-time news-

men were not covered in Mr. Bush's February pledge, the report added.

A C.I.A. spokesman refused to comment on the Senate report yesterday or to explain the seeming discrepancy between Mr. Bush's statement and the report's disclosures. He said that it was not agency policy to "endorse or reject a report by a Senate Committee."

The report aroused reaction from news organizations. When the C.I.A. refused to name the individuals involved, news executives noted that the C.I.A. was casting doubt on the operations of all news organizations abroad without giving them an opportunity of defending themselves against any charge of corruption of their news reports.

Lack of Definition Noted

Mr. Bush reiterated to the National News Council representatives his refusal to divulge the names of individuals who were working for or had worked for the C.I.A. Mr. Schnurman said, however, that C.I.A. officials had said that the agency was "terminating old arrangements in an orderly fashion and phasing them out." They refused to discuss how many journalists were involved.

One of the principal matters of confusion has been the exact definition of what the C.I.A. means by a part-time correspondent, or stringer. The agency officials said that any news executives, including publishers; stringers for American news organizations, foreign nationals working as newsmen for American news organizations and free lance writers would be considered journalists.